

chronically homeless through emergency shelters interfered with their treatment regimen, resulting in costly hospital and jail stays. Further, local emergency systems became clogged with permanent users, reducing their ability to address the more temporary problems of families and individuals who are homeless because of an economic crisis. Moving away from emergency shelter programs to permanent supportive housing has become the most critical change over the past several years and based on recent studies and programs I have seen in my home state of Missouri, it has clearly worked.

To implement this approach, I worked with Senator MIKULSKI to include a provision, beginning in fiscal year 1999 VA-HUD Appropriations Act and carried every year thereafter, to require that at least 30 percent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's—HUD—homeless assistance grants be used for permanent housing. Focusing a significant amount of funds towards permanent housing helped reverse the revolving door for the homeless using local emergency systems.

We also learned the importance of gathering data and analyzing the characteristics of our homeless population to design and target funds to programs needed to serve the homeless. The establishment of the Homeless Management Information Systems or HMIS through HUD has now become a critical tool for local continuum of care systems throughout the Nation in addressing their particular homeless populations. Requiring and funding HMIS systems through the VA-HUD appropriations bill was another critical component.

Finally, we learned that despite the involvement of several Federal agencies in serving the homeless, there were gaps in services and coordination was lacking. Again, I worked with my colleagues to reactivate the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to improve Federal, State, and local coordination of homeless programs. We also required that 25 percent of HUD homeless funds used for supportive services be matched with other funds to expand funding for these needs by encouraging other Federal agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Veterans Affairs to meet their obligations.

The HEARTH Act codifies these important provisions that have been carried in appropriations and builds on our work over the past several years. In addition, the act includes a number of other important provisions that create a new program to assist rural communities help the homeless, increases local flexibility by combining HUD's competitive grant programs, and provides incentives to house rapidly homeless families.

Homelessness is a national tragedy. We are reminded of this tragedy when walking around Washington, DC, St.

Louis, and other towns and cities across the Nation. It is my hope that one day, our Nation's homeless will not be worrying about where they will receive their next meal or where they will be sleeping that night. It is an unacceptable situation. But by working together with advocates, the private sector, and government, we can solve homelessness. The HEARTH Act is a prime example of that partnership and advances our ability to end homelessness.

Updating and improving our homeless programs is even more critical as more Americans face the prospects of homelessness due to the economic downturn. The housing crisis has already displaced many families and individuals creating more strain on social safety net and homeless programs.

Again, I thank Senator JACK REED for his leadership and commitment on homeless issues and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be enacted as soon as possible.

#### JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. SCHOOL OF LAW

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on March 27 colleagues of Congressman JIMMY DUNCAN from the House of Representatives gathered in Knoxville to celebrate the naming of Lincoln Memorial University's John J. Duncan, Jr. School of Law.

This is an appropriate honor both for Congressman DUNCAN and for the university.

The proposed Duncan School of Law received Tennessee Board of Law Examiner approval last month. This allows its graduates to be eligible to sit for the bar exam in Tennessee.

LMU has already submitted a letter of intent to pursue accreditation for the proposed law school. It hopes to begin admitting students and begin classes in August of this year. That first class will consist of approximately 75 part-time students. The full-time program will begin in fall 2010 and consist of another 125 students.

Congressman DUNCAN earned his journalism degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and his law degree at George Washington University. He has served as Captain in the U.S. Army National Guard and practiced law in Knoxville.

In 1981, when I was Governor of Tennessee, I appointed JIMMY DUNCAN as State trial judge. He served until 1988 and I was always proud of that appointment.

It is especially appropriate to combine the names of President Lincoln and the Duncan family. President Lincoln proposed creating the university as a gesture to the mountain people who fought with the Union in the Civil War. The Duncans, like the Alexanders and many others, were early Scotch-Irish settlers who remained loyal Lincolmites even though the State of Tennessee seceded from the Union. So have been most of the people in the

Second Congressional District that Congressman DUNCAN and his father have served. The district has elected only Republicans to the Congress since Abraham Lincoln was President.

President Lincoln once said that education "is the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in." Naming Lincoln Memorial University's law school for Congressman JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., unites two great traditions that will encourage educational excellence in our region.

#### IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows.

I get my health care and medications at the V.A. hospital in Boise, Idaho. That requires a four hour drive of over 170 miles, each way. This year I had to cancel my lab appointments and medication renewal exam because it would have cost me over \$250 to make the trip. My only alternative was to drive to the newly opened V.A. clinic in Lewiston, Idaho an 80-mile trip each way. I was then told that I would have to wait an unknown period of time "to get on a waiting list". This trip cost me over 90 plus dollars and gas/diesel is still climbing. If we allow new oil exploration in ANWR and off of our coast, what guarantees are we going to get that this "oil" will be used for the benefit of Americans. As I understand it now most of the oil from Alaska is shipped to Japan, while some is used for U.S. consumption. This is a national resource on national land and appropriate royalties should be dedicated to make gas and diesel affordable for all Americans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

DWIGHT, *White Bird*.

I'm 72 yrs of age, my wife is 70. We have worked hard all our lives, have been responsible, caring citizens. I am a vet, have served in various leadership positions in different organizations, involvement in Boy Scouts and other youth programs, as a responsible citizen over the years we have voted at all elections to exercise our civic responsibility. We are retired, live on a fixed income, with